

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 25, 2019

Mike Caimi, President
Liberty War Bird Association, Inc.
500 Airport Road
Suite T
Lititz, PA 17543

Dear Mr. Caimi,

It is my understanding that you plan to submit a petition to the FAA requesting a Living History Flight Experience (LHFE) Exemption for the Liberty War Bird Association, Inc. (LWBA) from 14 CFR 91.9(a), 91.319(a)(2), 91.319(c), 119.5(g) and 119.25(b). If granted, the exemption will allow LWBA to operate your beautifully restored Huey helicopter, N823LW, for the purpose of carrying passengers for compensation under the LHFE program in accordance with FAA policy posted on 7/21/2015, ID: FAA 2015-0517-0001.

Having witnessed first hand the meticulous restoration of this iconic helicopter, and the dedication and commitment that your organization has brought to this project, I am hopeful that your exemption request will be granted and that you will be able to continue to offer this outstanding historical experience to the residents of Pennsylvania. I look forward to hearing of many more Huey 823 flights in the future.

Sincerely,



Pat Toomey
United States Senator

LLOYD SMUCKER

11TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

WASHINGTON OFFICE
127 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-2411



U. S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-3816

LANCASTER COUNTY
LANCASTER OFFICE
51 SOUTH DUKE STREET, SUITE 201
LANCASTER, PA 17602

YORK COUNTY
RED LION OFFICE
100 REDCO AVENUE
RED LION, PA 17356

HANOVER OFFICE
118 CARLISLE STREET
HANOVER, PA 17331

October 30th, 2019

Honorable Steve Dickson
Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Administrator Dickson:

I am writing on behalf of the Liberty War Bird Association (LWBA). LWBA is applying to request a Living History Flight Experience Exemption for their fully restored UH-H1 Huey helicopter.

LWBA is a 501c3 non-profit currently providing services to veterans in Central Pennsylvania by taking them on flight tours in a restored, Vietnam War era, UH-1H Huey helicopter. By granting this exemption, LWBA would be able to expand their service and provide a memorable experience to more veterans across the state.

LWBA has taken a proactive approach to ensure the safety of all flights conducted. The helicopter was certified by the FAA under the experimental/exhibition category in August of 2018. Their pilots go through the necessary annual ground and flight training and qualifications. All LWBA's Technical Inspectors (TIs) and Crew Chiefs (CEs) were trained by the United States Army and have extensive experience. They too, go through annual recurrent training and testing. LWBA verifies the pilot's, technical inspector's and crew chief's training and maintain records of their previous experience, licenses, and ratings from the FAA and the military.

I am in support serving veterans in the community and I am in support of this project.

Thank you in advance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lloyd".

Rep. Lloyd K. Smucker
Pennsylvania's 11th Congressional District



Department of Pennsylvania
Veterans of Foreign Wars
of the United States

4002 Fenton Avenue
Harrisburg PA 17109-5943
Web - www.vfwpahq.org



Telephone - (717) 234-7927
Fax - (717) 234-1955

November 1, 2019

Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Administrator Steve Dickson:

The Pennsylvania Department of Pennsylvania Veterans of Foreign Wars is writing you to offer our support of the petition of the Pennsylvania-based Liberty War Bird Association (LWBA) to receive a Living History Flight Experience Exemption from your agency for UH-1H, N823LW—a restored Vietnam War helicopter.

Granting this exemption will allow LWBA, which is a 501(c)(3), non-profit tax-exempt education organization, to operate the helicopter to carry passengers for compensation under the LHFE program in accordance with FAA policy posted on 7/21/2015, ID: FAA 2015-0517-0001. We understand that LWBA is preparing—or has submitted—its petition to explain how its policies and procedures meet the criteria of the LHFE program, to include the required Safety Risk Management and Equal Level of Safety.

The Pennsylvania Department of VFW believes in the great educational value of flying this Huey. We also believe that, when they have a chance to ride in this iconic helicopter--the single most significant symbol of the Vietnam War, the response from our Vietnam vets and their families will be one of great appreciation. Many of the veterans who have seen this helicopter already have recalled their experiences flying on a Huey during their war-time service. For some, it has been an extremely moving and healing experience.

Thank you for taking this letter into consideration when you review and act on LWBA's exemption request.

Very Respectfully,

Wayne D. Perry
State Commander, 2019-20

THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA

P.O. Box 2324, Harrisburg, PA 17105 • (717) 730-9100 • FAX (717) 975-2836

November 13, 2019

Mr. Steve Dickson, Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Mr. Dickson,

As The American Legion, Department of Pennsylvania State Commander, I want to give my personal endorsement to the good works done by The Liberty War Bird Association.

This organization, based at the Lancaster, PA airport, has restored and maintains a UH-1 helicopter, designated N823LW. This chopper is one of only about eight fully restored UH-1s in the country and the only one in Pennsylvania and the surrounding area.

The educational value of this aircraft cannot be overstated. I have personally been to an event where N823LW flew over and then landed to allow those in attendance to get a close-up, hands-on tour of the aircraft. This is standard operating procedure at some school and public appearance events. Their Director of Public Affairs travels tirelessly around to other public events and schools to talk about the Liberty warbirds and, in particular, Huey 823.

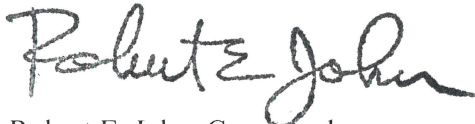
Earlier this year, Huey 823 flew to Perry County to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of The American Legion at an all-day event with several American Legion Posts.

This helicopter has a special impact on Vietnam veterans and their families. There is no more appropriate image of the Vietnam War than the sight of a group of Hueys flying in formation over rice paddies or landing in a jungle clearing to drop off troops or evacuate the wounded.

The Liberty War Bird Association is made up primarily of veterans, many of whom flew or maintained Hueys in Vietnam.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to express my support. If you have any questions or comments, I can be reached at 717-576-1775 or at cmdr@pa-legion.com.

Sincerely,



Robert E. John, Commander
Department of Pennsylvania



RICHARD J. GROSS POST NO 8896
Locust Street Ext.
East Berlin, Pennsylvania 17316

Federal Aviation Administration

To Whom It May Concern:

Richard J Gross Post 8896 Veterans of Foreign Wars, East Berlin, PA, would like to recommend that you issue a Living History Flight Experience Exemption for Huey Helicopter N823LW operated by the Liberty War Bird Assn.

We at Post 8896 feel this would be of great educational value. The Huey helicopter is the single most significant symbol of the Vietnam War. The response of our Vietnam vets and their families to have the chance to take a membership flight on this iconic helicopter was overwhelming.

Post 8896 hopes that you will consider this recommendation to keep this aircraft flying as a part of our great military history.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Gary L Kopp", is written over the printed name.

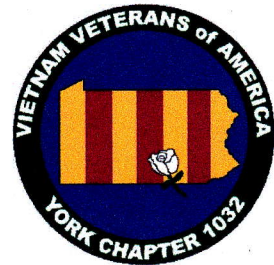
Gary L Kopp

Vietnam Veteran

Past Commander and current Sr. Vice Commander



**VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
WHITE ROSE CHAPTER 1032
P.O. BOX 7655
York, PA 17404**



December 3, 2019

Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Ave SW
Washington, DC 20591

Subject: Liberty War Birds Huey 823

To whom it may concern,

The UH-1 (Huey) helicopter is an icon of the Vietnam War. Many Vietnam veterans, and those who witnessed the Vietnam war through television news reports know the importance of this aircraft in Vietnam.

Many of our veterans have told us they remember the Huey with mixed emotions. When on base, they hated to hear the Huey coming. They knew that sound meant they were going to the field to face battle. When in the field under fire, that distinctive sound meant help was on the way.

Liberty War Birds Huey 823 brings back memories of that war, good and bad. This aircraft is important to Vietnam Veterans. It is a museum and important part of history. It is one of only about 8 Hueys restored to their original war appearance.

Maintaining and flying this aircraft for local events requires many volunteers and many dollars to ensure safe operation. Historical aircraft like this bring history alive for current and future generations.

Please keep this living history airborne. It is important to all of us who served during that time to keep this aircraft safely flying and continuing to heal those who depended on it half a century ago.

Sincerely,

Board of Directors, White Rose Chapter 1032, Vietnam Veterans of America

Cc: Liberty War Birds

Bob [Signature] *Don [Signature]*
Greg [Signature]
B. W. Fink
William E. Krou

"Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another"





Lancaster Airport Authority

500 Airport Road • Suite G

Lititz, PA 17543-9340

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www.lancasterairport.com

U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 205941

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Amanda B. Lehman

Asst. Secretary &

Asst. Treasurer

Richard G. Stauffer

Airport Director

David F. Eberly, Jr.

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing today regarding Liberty War Bird Association's request to receive a Federal Aviation Administration, Living History Flight Experience Exemption, for their UH-1 Flying Museum.

Since 2015 the Liberty War Bird Association has been based at the Lancaster Airport (LNS.) It has been my pleasure, and that of my staff, to not only watch the Liberty War Bird men and women restore the Huey 823, but also see the passion with which they convey the history and mission of the iconic Vietnam War era aircraft.

From the ground to the sky, the Liberty War Bird team conducts all aspects of their mission with professionalism and safety as paramount. On the ground the majority of their maintenance team are retired military aviation mechanics and inspectors. In the sky Liberty War Bird's pilots-in-command are all retired Army aviators with extensive experience flying turbine helicopters from Cobras and Hueys in Vietnam, to Blackhawks in Iraq.

We live in a digital age where it is easy to be transported to a different time and place without leaving the comfort of our homes. Yet, nothing compares to a real-life experience. Liberty War Bird Association and their education focus, through their Flying History Museum, can bring history alive. Being able to fly the public will not only give, young and old alike, the opportunity to be transported, through flight, to a time and place so important to our nation, but also provide a way for many Vietnam veterans to reconnect with their own personal history.

It is my pleasure to support and recommend the Liberty War Bird Association for the FAA Living History Flight Experience Exemption. Their mission to educate the public on the impact these aircraft had on US soldiers and the Vietnam War, their commitment to honor those who served, and their desire to restore the 823 to its former glory, makes the Liberty War Bird Association worthy of the exemption.

I am happy to discuss this recommendation, and am available at your convenience.

Please feel free to contact me at 717-569-1221 or by email at:

deberly@lancasterairport.com

Sincerely,

David F. Eberly Jr.



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration
Coatesville VA Medical Center

1400 Blackhorse Hill Road
Coatesville, PA 19320
www.coatesville.va.gov

November 11, 2019

Liberty Warbird Association
500 Airport Road, Site T
Lititz, PA 17543

In Reply Refer to: 135/00
Vietnam Era Helicopter visiting CVAMC
Huey 823 and Liberty War Bird Association

SUBJECT: Letter of support to Liberty Warbird Association & Huey 823

To Whom It May Concern:

The Coatesville VA Medical Center (CVAMC), is extremely appreciative for the Liberty Warbird Association's flyover, visit and static display at the CVAMC on July 27, 2019. A total of 81 Vietnam Veterans amongst a crowd of over 200 people, received their Vietnam Commemoration Pin, which was a fitting tribute to honor their service during the Huey static display.

For all in attendance to witness the flyover and static display, it was an amazing positive experience and well received. Veterans began to reminisce about their experiences with the Huey during their service time and many shared their stories with the flight crew. Veterans also expressed their appreciation to the crew for their dedication and hard work to restore Huey 823 to flying status. It was gratifying for medical center staff to see how our Veterans approached Huey 823 with interest, joy, and respect as if a long lost friend arrived.

Veterans also thanked medical center staff for coordinating this event. Weeks after the Huey visit, hospitalized Veterans were still glowing and talking about the flyover and visit of Huey 823.

Prior to the Huey 823 flyover and visit, the CVAMC executive leadership, primary staff and clinicians discussed in detail the impact and possible effects that this visit may have on combat Veterans (especially Vietnam Veterans). Clinicians expressed their concern that the flyover could potentially trigger negative behaviors such as severe Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) reactions. Taking this concern into consideration and discussing workable solutions became part of the decision-making process to either approve or deny the event. Conclusively, the decision was to approve a scheduled visit based on the argument that a visit of a Vietnam Era helicopter could also have possible healing effects for Veterans in their recovery process. The medical center also agreed to have clinical staff available at the event site to observe behaviors and to immediately assist any Veterans as needed to handle a code Green (PTSD flare-up) event. Not a single code Green was called and contrary to the worries of some clinicians, Veterans reacted positively to the visit and ultimately this visit was seen as a healing event, touching Veterans' emotions in many different ways (much like visiting the Vietnam Wall Memorial).

The CVAMC is certainly pleased with the outcome of the flyover and static display and we would definitely welcome a return of Huey 823 and its crew for a future Veteran event.

Sincerely,

Kirk Fernitz
Director, Community Relations & Congressional Affairs



PENNSYLVANIA WAR VETERANS COUNCIL, INC.



PO Box 2324, Harrisburg, PA 17105 - 2324

717 - 730 - 9100

November 13, 2019

Mr. Steve Dickson, Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Mr. Dickson,

The Pennsylvania War Veterans Council considered a presentation by Mr. Charles Bechtel of the Liberty War Birds Association Petition for Living History Flight Experience Exemption. The fourteen veterans organizations that consist of The Pennsylvania War Veterans Council voted to endorse this petition at a meeting held on November 7, 2019.

If you have any questions regarding this endorsement, please contact my office at 717-730-9100.

Sincerely,

Kit D. Watson
Secretary
Pennsylvania War Veterans Council

KDW/knds

Village Restorations & Consulting, Inc

PO Box 569
Claysburg, PA 16625
814-696-1379
www.villagerestorations.com

October 29, 2019

Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20591

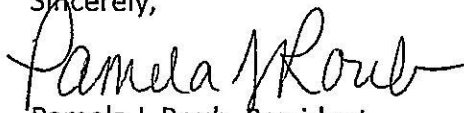
To Whom It May Concern:

My company, Village Restorations & Consulting, Inc., has been contacted by Charles Bechtel of the Liberty War Bird Association regarding their request for a Living History Flight Experience Exemption for their Huey helicopter N823LW.

Village Restorations & Consulting Inc. has first-hand knowledge of not only the educational benefits provided by the Liberty War Bird Association, but also the social impact this organization has had on the Vietnam Veterans they encounter. The Liberty War Bird Association has brought their Huey helicopter to several Army Heritage Days event held at the US Army Heritage & Education Center, Carlisle Barracks. The Army Heritage Days event is a two-day historical educational event focusing on the lives of the United States Soldier from the inception of the Army to the present. This two-day event draws close to 10,000 visitors each year. The Huey display is always a magnet for all visitors, especially the Veterans who served during the Vietnam War, with many visitors coming both days to view the educational display. An exemption to be able to offer rides for compensation will only increase the educational and social impact the Liberty War Bird Association has had not only with the general public, but especially Vietnam Veterans and their family members.

On behalf of Village Restorations & Consulting, Inc., I respectfully request that the Living History Flight Experience Exemption be granted to the Liberty War Bird Association for their Huey helicopter, N823LW.

Sincerely,



Pamela J. Roub, President
Village Restorations & Consulting, Inc.